

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT/PTO

29 JUN 2005

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

To: JORIO, Paolo STUDIO TORTA S.r.l. Via Viotti, 9 I-10121 TORINO ITALIE		Date of mailing (day/month/year) 31.03.2005	
Applicant's or agent's file reference E-1961/03		IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/51112	International filing date (day/month/year) 29.12.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 30.12.2002	
Applicant DAYCO EUROPE S.R.L. ET AL			

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/B/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Jülich, G Tel. +31 70 340-3935	
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT (PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference E-1961/03	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP 03/51112	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 29.12.2003	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 30.12.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC F16H7/12		
Applicant DAYCO EUROPE S.R.L. ET AL		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 8 sheets.</p>	
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 	

Date of submission of the demand 29.07.2004	Date of completion of this report 31.03.2005
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Goeman, F Telephone No. +31 70 340-4086



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/EP 03/51112

I. Basis of the report

- With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1, 2, 4-13	as originally filed
2a, 3, 3a	received on 24.02.2005 with letter of 24.02.2005

Claims, Numbers

1-7	received on 24.02.2005 with letter of 24.02.2005
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Drawings, Sheets

1/4-4/4	as originally filed
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- With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

- With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

- The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

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5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-7
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-7
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-7
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: WO 00/77422 A (SCHAEFFLER WAELZLAGER) 21 December 2000 (2000-12-21)

2. The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1, and discloses on page 12, paragraph 2 (the references in parentheses applying to this document): A two-arm belt tensioner for a belt drive, comprising: a fixed portion (32), designed to be fixed to a supporting structure; a first arm (7) and a second arm (8), carried by said fixed portion (54) and hinged thereto about a common axis; a first pulley (20) and a second pulley (21), mounted idle on respective ends of said arms (7,8) and designed to co-operate with respective branches (23a, 23b) of a belt (23) of said drive; and elastic means (14), which force said arms (7,8) towards one another to maintain said pulleys (20, 21) in contact with said respective branches (23a, 23b) of the belt (23), said arms (23, 24) comprise respective first arrest elements, which are designed to interact with said fixed portion (32) to define respective first positions of arrest of said arms (7,8) under the action of said elastic means (27), and respective second arrest elements, which are designed to interact with said fixed portion (32) to define respective second positions of end-of-travel of said arms (7,8) under the action of the pull of said belt, said fixed portion (32) comprising a base plate, a pin fixed to said plate and defining said common axis.

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known tensioner in that said fixed portion includes an appendage fixed to said base plate and defining an element of contrast for said first and second arrest elements of said arms.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved may be regarded as to make a simple base plate. The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons: Although an appendage defining an element of contrast for said first and second arrest

elements of an tensioner arm is known, using the same appendage for both tensioner arms is not known from nor is it rendered obvious by any available prior art document.

Claims 2-5 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

3. The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 6, and discloses on page 12, paragraph 2 (the references in parentheses applying to this document): A belt drive for connecting a reversible electric machine (2) to an engine shaft of an internal combustion engine, said electric machine (2) being operable as an electric machine for starting said internal combustion engine or a generator, said drive comprising: at least one first pulley (24) fitted on the engine shaft of said internal combustion engine; a second pulley (18) fitted on a shaft of said electric machine (2); and a belt (23) wound around said pulleys (18, 24), said belt (23) comprising: a first branch (23a) and a second branch (23b) set respectively between said first pulley (18), and said second pulley (24) and between said second pulley (24) and said first pulley (18) in the direction of motion of the belt (23) itself; and a two-arm (7,8) belt tensioner, which comprises: a fixed portion (32), designed to be fixed to a supporting structure; a first arm (7) and a second arm (9), carried by said fixed portion (32) and hinged thereto about a common axis; a first pulley (20) and a second pulley (21), mounted idle on respective ends of said arms (7,8) and designed to co-operate respectively with said first branch (23a) and with said second branch (23b) of said belt (23); and elastic means (14), which force said arms (7,8) towards one another to maintain said pulleys (20, 21) in contact with said respective branches (7, 8) of the belt (23); said arms (7,8) comprise respective first arrest elements, which are designed to interact with said fixed portion (32) to define respective first positions of arrest of said arms (7, 8) under the action of said elastic means (14); and respective second arrest elements, which are designed to interact with said fixed portion (32) to define respective second positions of end of travel of said arms (7,8) under the action of the pull of said belt (23) said fixed portion (32) comprising a base plate, a pin fixed to said plate and defining said common axis of rotation of the two arms.

The subject-matter of claim 6 differs from this known tensioner in that said fixed

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portion includes an appendage fixed to said base plate and defining an element of contrast for said first and second arrest elements of said arms.

The subject-matter of claim 6 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved may be regarded as to make a simple base plate. The solution to this problem proposed in claim 6 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons: Although an appendage defining an element of contrast for said first and second arrest elements of an tensioner arm is known, using the same appendage for both tensioner arms is not known from nor is it rendered obvious by any available prior art document.

Claim 7 is dependent on claim 6 and as such also meet the requirements of the Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

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WO-A-00/77422 discloses a belt tensioner including a fixed portion, a first and a second arm hinged to the fixed portion about a common axis and carrying respective idle pulleys, and a spring biasing the arms towards one another to maintain the pulleys in contact with respective branches of a transmission belt.

Stop means are provided to limit the travel of each arm both in the direction of the spring force, so as to define an assembly position of the arms, and in the opposite direction to prevent overtravel of the arms under dynamic pull variations of the belt.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to provide an improved tensioner of the type briefly discussed above, which has a simplified structure in particular regarding the fixed portion.

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DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

The purpose of the present invention is to obtain a two-arm belt tensioner of the type briefly described above, which is particularly simple and compact, easy to install and to handle prior to installation on the engine, and convenient to install on the engine itself.

The above purpose is achieved by a two-arm belt tensioner for a belt drive, comprising: a fixed portion, designed to be fixed to a supporting structure; a first arm and a second arm, carried by said fixed portion and hinged thereto about a common axis; a first pulley and a second pulley, mounted idle on respective ends of said arms and designed to co-operate with respective branches of a belt of said drive; and elastic means, which force said arms towards one another to maintain said pulleys in contact with said respective branches of the belt, ~~said belt tensioner being characterised in that said comprising~~ arms comprise first arrest elements, which are designed to interact with said fixed portion to define respective first positions of arrest of said arms under the action of said elastic means, and respective second arrest elements, which are designed to interact with said fixed portion to define respective second positions of end-of-travel of said arms under the action of the pull of said belt,

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a better understanding of the present

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said fixed portion comprising a base plate and a pin fixed to said plate and defining said common axis of rotation of the two arms, said belt tensioner being characterised in that said fixed portion includes an appendage fixed to said base plate and defining an element of contrast for said first and second arrest elements of said arms.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a better understanding of the present

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JC14 Rec'd PCT/PTO 29 JUN 2005

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CLAIMS

1. A two-arm belt tensioner for a belt drive (1), comprising: a fixed portion (21), designed to be fixed to a supporting structure (22); a first arm (23) and a second arm (24), carried by said fixed portion (21) and hinged thereto about a common axis (A); a first pulley (25) and a second pulley (26), mounted idle on respective ends (60, 61) of said arms (23, 24) and designed to co-operate with respective branches (15a, 15b) of a belt (15) of said drive (1); and elastic means (27), which force said arms (23, 24) towards one another to maintain said pulleys (25, 26) in contact with said respective branches (15a, 15b) of the belt (15), ~~said belt tensioner being characterized in that said arms~~
~~comprising~~
15 (23, 24) comprise respective first arrest elements (37, 47), which are designed to interact with said fixed portion (21) to define respective first positions of arrest of said arms (23, 24) under the action of said elastic means (27), and respective second arrest elements (38, 39; 48, 49), which are designed to interact with said fixed portion (21) to define respective second positions of end-of-travel of said arms (23, 24) under the action of the pull of said belt (15),
25 2. The belt tensioner according to Claim 1,
comprising
characterized in that said fixed portion (21) comprises
(30)
a base plate (30), a pin (31) fixed to said plate and

defining said common axis (A) of rotation of the two
~~< said belt tensioner being characterised in that said fixed portion~~
arms (23, 24), ~~Y~~ and an appendage (32) fixed to said base (21) ~~which includes~~
plate (30) and defining an element of contrast for said
first and second arrest elements (38, 39; 48, 49) of
~~(23, 24)~~
5 said arms

2. The belt tensioner according to Claim 1,
characterized in that at least one of said first
and second arrest elements (38, 39; 48, 49) of said arms
(23, 24) comprises a radial projection (47, 38, 48),
10 which extends from the respective arm (23, 24) and is
designed to interact with said appendage (32) of said
fixed portion (21).

3. The belt tensioner according to Claim 2,
characterized in that at least one of said arms (23, 24)-
15 comprises a hub (34), which houses at least partially
said base plate (30) and is provided with an opening
(36), through which there comes out said appendage (32),
at least one of said arrest elements (37) being defined
by an end contrast element delimiting said opening (36).
20

4. The belt tensioner according to any one of the
preceding claims, characterized in that said first and
second arrest elements (38, 39; 48, 49) are provided
with respective buffers (39, 49) made of elastic
material for absorbing the impact with said fixed
25 portion (21).

5. The belt tensioner according to any one of the
preceding claims, characterized in that said elastic

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means comprise a spiral spring (27) and in that one of said arms (24) comprises a cup-shaped hub (45), which houses said spring (27), said spring (27) being constrained, with its own outer end (40), to said hub (45) and, with its own inner end (44), to the other arm (23).

67. A belt drive (1) for connecting a reversible electric machine (4) to an engine shaft (6) of an internal-combustion engine (2), said electric machine (4) being operable as an electric machine for starting said internal-combustion engine (2) or as generator, said drive (1) comprising: at least one first pulley (7) fitted on the engine shaft (6) of said internal-combustion engine (2); a second pulley (8) fitted on a shaft (9) of said electric machine (4); and a belt (15) wound around said pulleys (7, 8), said belt (15) comprising: a first branch (15a) and a second branch (15b) set respectively between said first pulley (7) and said second pulley (8) and between said second pulley (8) and said first pulley (7) in the direction of motion of the belt (15) itself; and a two-arm belt tensioner (20), which comprises: a fixed portion (21), designed to be fixed to a supporting structure (22); a first arm (23) and a second arm (24), carried by said fixed portion (21) and hinged thereto about a common axis (A); a first pulley (25) and a second pulley (26), mounted idle on respective ends (60, 61) of said arms (23, 24)

and designed to co-operate respectively with said first branch (15a) and with said second branch (15b) of said belt (15); and elastic means (27), which force said arms (23, 24) towards one another to maintain said pulleys (25, 26) in contact with said respective branches (15a, 15b) of the belt (15); ~~said belt drive being comprising characterized in that~~ said arms (23, 24) ~~comprise~~ define respective first arrest elements (37, 47), which are designed to interact with said fixed portion (21) to 10 define respective first positions of arrest of said arms (23, 24) under the action of said elastic means (27), and respective second arrest elements (38, 39; 48, 49), which are designed to interact with said fixed portion (21) to define respective second positions of end-of-travel of said arms (23, 24) under the action of the pull of said belt (15); < - > See page 18

7. A belt tensioner according to Claim 6,
characterized in that said elastic means (27) have a rigidity calculated so as to bring about a rotation of each arm (23, 24) of the tensioner (20) up to the respective second position of arrest in the presence of a maximum value of tension of the respective branch of the belt.

5 < said fixed portion (21) comprising a base plate (30), a pin (31) fixed to said plate (30) and defining said common axis (A) of rotation of the two arms (23, 24), said belt drive being characterised in that said fixed portion (21) includes an appendage (32) fixed to said base plate (30) and defining an element of contrast for said first and second arrest elements (38, 39; 48, 49) of said arms (23, 24). >

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